

Message Text

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15

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

/064 W

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R 260919Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2251

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 1709

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: CDS ELECTORAL PLANS

REFS: (A) LISBON 1633 (B) LISBON 1587

SUMMARY: CDS HAS DECIDED TO CONTINUE IN THE ELECTIONS, AND HAS BEEN GIVEN UNTIL MARCH 26 TO COMPLETE ITS ELECTORAL LISTS. THE PARTY HAS LEFT OPEN THE OPTION OF WITHDRAWING FROM THE ELECTIONS AT LAST MOMENT IF HARRASSMENT INCREASES. END SUMMARY.

1. THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL HAS GIVEN THE CDS UNTIL MARCH 26 TO PROPOSE NEW CANDIDATES TO FILL THE VACANCIES LEFT WHEN ITS PDC COLLEAGUES WERE BANNED FROM PARTICIPATING IN THE ELECTIONS. INVOLVED ARE 88 VACANCIES IN 20 OF THE 22 ELECTORAL DISTRICTS.

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THE CDS MUST FIND REPLACEMENTS IN EACH DISTRICT FOR ALL THE

FORMER PDC CANDIDATES. FAILURE FULLY TO COMPLETE THE LISTS
LEADS TO DISQUALIFICATION OF THE CDS IN THAT DISTRICT.

2. ACCORDING TO TWO DIRECTORS OF THE PARTY WHO TALKED WITH
EMBOFF MARCH 24, THE PARTY IS HAVING PROBLEMS IN FINDING
THE NECESSARY REPLACEMENTS FOR THE PDC. THE CDS BELIEVES IT
WILL BE SUCCESSFUL, BUT POINTS OUT THAT FEAR OF PHYSICAL HARM
AND LOSS OF EMPLOYMENT ARE KEEPING PERSONS WHO WOULD HAVE
ACTIVELY SUPPORTED THE PARTY AT HOME.

3. THE PARTY IS UNSURE WHAT LED THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL
TO PASS A SPECIAL LAW GIVING THEM TIME TO REMAKE THEIR LIST OF
CANDIDATES. (THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL STATED IN THE PREAMBLE
TO THE NEW LAW THAT "IT WOULD NOT BE REASONABLE" TO IMPEDE CDS
FROM PARTICIPATING IN ELECTIONS, RECOGNIZING THAT THE ELECTORAL
LAW OVERLOOKED POSSIBILITY OF A COALITION PARTNER BEING
SUSPENDED.) CDS SUSPECTS THAT PARTY WAS ALLOWED TO CONTINUE
BECAUSE WERE IT NOT TO RUN THE PPD WOULD RECEIVE CONSERVATIVE
VOTES AND EMERGE AS THE SINGLE STRONGEST PARTY. ALSO GIVEN
ITS WEAKENED CONDITION AND THE POSSIBILITY THAT CONSERVATIVES
OUT OF FEAR MAY NOT TURN OUT IN LARGE NUMBERS TO VOTE, CHANCES
ARE THAT THE CDS MIGHT NOT DO AS WELL AS EXPECTED. THE CDS
LEADERS WITH WHOM EMBASSY HAS SPOKEN BELIEVE THAT A RELATIVELY
SMALL VOTE FOR THE CDS MIGHT LATER BE USED BY THE AFM RADICALS
AS JUSTIFICATION FOR FURTHER RADICALIZATION, OR AT LEAST AS AN
EXCUSE FOR MOVES ALREADY MADE IN THE NAME OF THE PEOPLE.

4. IN VIEW OF THE ABOVE, THE CDS IS KEEPING OPEN ITS OPTIONS.
IT DECIDED AFTER 8 HOURS OF DEBATE MARCH 21 TO CONTINUE IN THE
ELECTIONS. HOWEVER, IF IT APPEARS TO THEM THAT THEY ARE BEING
USED BY OTHERS AND WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO COMPETE FAIRLY, THEY
HAVE THE OPTION OF WITHDRAWING FROM THE ELECTIONS UP TO 48 HOURS
BEFORE BALLOTING OPENS (THE LEGAL DEADLINE FOR WITHDRAWAL.)

5. THE CDS IS ATTEMPTING TO ESTABLISH DIRECT CONTACT WITH
ADMIRAL ROSA COUTINHO, ON WHOM THEY FEEL THEY HAVE MADE A
FAVORABLE IMPRESSION, IN ORDER TO SECURE GUARANTEES OF FAIR
PLAY. THEY INTEND TO POINT OUT THAT THEY CANNOT RUN IF THE
AFM LABELS THE PARTY FASCIST AND ATTACKS ITS MEMBERS PUBLICLY.
THEY ARE PARTICULARLY PIQUED AT A RECENT REFERENCE TO PARTY
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PRESIDENT FREITAS DO AMARAL IN AN AFM CIVIC ACTION SESSION AS
THE "LEADER OF A REACTIONARY FASCIST GANG."

6. THE CDS REALIZES THAT IT HAS VERY LITTLE LEVERAGE WITH
WHICH TO BARGAIN. HOWEVER, IN VIEW OF THE ADVERSE FOREIGN
CONSEQUENCES OF THE SUSPENSION OF THE PDC, IT FEELS THAT IT AT
LEASE CAN THREATEN TO QUIT YELLING "FOUL." THIS THREAT HAS
LONG BEEN UNDER DISCUSSION BY THE CDS (LISBON 4372 OF 1974).

THE FINAL CDS DECISION REGARDING THE ELECTIONS WILL DEPEND
ON EVENTS.
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